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## Introduction to Aramaic Studies Volume 10 'A Jewish Targum in a Christian World'

It is a pleasure for us to introduce this special issue of *Aramaic Studies*. The regular editors of *Aramaic Studies* had the interesting idea once in a while to invite a guest editor (or a team of editors) to produce a special issue on a well defined theme. At the Congress of the International Organization for Targumic Studies in 2010 in Helsinki, the idea was born to produce a special issue on 'A Jewish Targum in a Christian World', edited by the present writers. The volume consists of revisions of papers given by members of the research team 'A Jewish Targum in a Christian World' at the congresses of the WCJS (Jerusalem 2009), the EAJIS (Ravenna 2010), and the IOTS (Helsinki 2010). It also includes an introduction to the website of the Targum Institute of the Protestant Theological University in the Netherlands (PThU). In the following we will give a short outline of the research project of which you will find some fruit here, followed by a list of the papers.

For three years we have been working with a small team of junior and senior scholars from the Netherlands and Belgium on the research programme mentioned. In this project we investigate the Western branch of Targum Samuel. These Western Targum texts were studied and transmitted in the predominately Christian environment of Medieval Europe. This fact left its marks on both the text and its outward appearance. Some of the textual, paratextual, and codicological variants that occur in Western Targum manuscripts and editions as compared to the Eastern tradition, relate to the history of the various Jewish communities within Europe, and more specifically to the influence—either positive or negative—of the Christian environment. This project aims to answer the question of how the diverse appearances of Targum Samuel relate to the internal development of the Jewish communities and to the external influences of the Christian surroundings. It is divided into five subprojects:

1. *Targum Samuel in Sepharad*. This subproject investigates the history of Sephardic Jewry, especially during and after the *Reconquista*, and places the extant manuscripts and editions within this historical context. Special attention is paid to the position of the *conversos* who copied targumic texts for Christian universities and for the Complutensian Polyglot after the expulsion of the Jews from

Spain in 1492. This part is carried out by a research trainee of the PThU, Ms Johanna Tanja.

2. *Targum Samuel in Ashkenaz and Italy*. Dr Hector Patmore, postdoctoral researcher at the PThU, investigates the history of Ashkenazic and Italian Jewry and places the relevant manuscripts and editions within this historical context. Special notice will be paid to the complete Hebrew and Aramaic Bibles, which were produced in the tradition of the Christian Atlantic Bibles.

3. *Targum Samuel in the Rabbinic Bibles* studies the history of Ashkenazic and Italian Jewry after the invention of printing, and places the Rabbinic Bibles within this history. An important factor in this subproject is the cooperation of Jews and Christians in Venice that produced the Second Rabbinic Bible which for a long time functioned as *textus receptus* for Jews and Christians. The PhD student working on this part of the project is Hans van Nes of the Evangelical Theological Faculty (ETF) in Leuven.

4. *The Latin Translations of Targum Samuel* investigates the five extant manuscripts and editions that include a Latin translation of the Targum text, in order to find out how Jews explained their text to Christians, or how Christians interpreted the Targum themselves. Attention will be paid particularly to the history of bilingual Bibles and other texts that the Roman Church produced in the Middle Ages to correct the Vulgate. One of the present writers, Dr Eveline van Staaldune-Sulman of VU University Amsterdam, is responsible for this part of the project.

5. *An Edition of the Source Materials*. In our previous research project called ‘Origin and History of Targum Jonathan to the Prophets: Towards a Critical Edition’, a sample edition was produced of Targum Samuel (see <http://www.targum.nl>). Now that all the relevant manuscripts and editions of Targum Samuel have been collated for the subprojects described above, they will be available to produce a new scholarly edition of Targum Samuel as envisioned in the Targum Text Edition Project (<http://targum.info/iots/ittep/>). Eveline van Staaldune-Sulman will be the editor responsible.

The church historians Professor Hans Martin Kirn (PThU) and Professor Andreas Beck (ETF) supervise the historical part of the project, while Professor Alberdina Houtman (PThU) is responsible for the supervision of the project as a whole.

This work is part of the research programme ‘A Jewish Targum in a Christian World’, which is for the greater part financed by the *Netherlands Organisation*

*for Scientific Research* (NWO). The project is further supported by the Protestant Theological University in the Netherlands and the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven.

Finally, what are the specific topics you will find in this special issue? We start with a general article by Alberdina Houtman on the use of paratext in cultural historical Targum research. Hector Patmore gives us two substantive articles on the transmission of Targum Jonathan in the West, with regard to both text and paratext. In the first article he describes a specific group of manuscripts which he calls ‘mixed Western’. The second article is a comprehensive attempt to explain the system of the marginalia of Codex Reuchlin in its entirety: an endeavor many targumists have been looking forward to for a long time. This is followed by twin articles by Johanna Tanja and Eveline van Staalduine-Sulman on Christianized targumic versions within the Sephardic tradition. Both largely concentrate on paratextual elements. Johanna Tanja focuses on the background and function of two manuscripts and two editions, while Eveline van Staalduine-Sulman discusses the question of whether they deserve a place in the planned new Targum edition. Hans van Nes has written a case study on an interesting textual variant that reveals some of the sentiments copyists and editors had to reckon with, that is the hostility towards the city of Rome. After the research articles Eveline van Staalduine-Sulman gives an introduction to the content of the PThU Targum website and future plans.

We wish to thank the regular editors of *Aramaic Studies*, Willem Smelik and Bas ter Haar Romeny for the opportunity they offered to produce this special issue and we hope that the final result is appreciated by the readership of *Aramaic Studies*.

Alberdina Houtman and Eveline van Staalduine-Sulman  
Editors  
Kampen 2011